The U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group: Make Agent Orange History
Track Two diplomacy and the case of the U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group

Skills Exercise 1: Three Similarities and One Difference – 30 min

• **Skills practiced:** Communication, diversity awareness, teamwork

• **Purpose:** Students identify and talk about differences among people that can lead to conflict, and the similarities that exist that can help build relationships.

• **Instructions:** Class breaks into small groups of three to five members. The groups have approximately ten minutes to come up with their lists of three similarities and at least one difference among them. These similarities and differences could relate to physical attributes, family, birthplace, birth order, marital status, hobbies, food preferences, etc. After they have finished, each group shares their list with the rest of the class. The results are recorded on a flip chart or board. After each group has presented their findings the instructor leads the class in discussing the following questions:

  - Which were more difficult to find- differences or similarities?
  - Why do you think it is important to note similarities as well as differences?
  - What happens if you or your group are not valued or treated fairly because of differences?
  - What other differences could have been listed on the flip chart/board?
  - How does being comfortable with discussing differences and similarities help with problem-solving and conflict resolution?
  - Do you have more communication problems with people that are similar to you or different from you?
  - How can you use similarities to help resolve some of those problems?

Borrowed from Withers, Bill and Lewis Keami D. *The Conflict and Communication Activity Book*, Amacom, 2003

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